

## **REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL JANUARY 17, 2017**

The Jasper County Council met this date at 7:00 P.M. C.S.T. in the Commissioners Room, Suite 202, of the Jasper County Courthouse located at 115 West Washington Street, Rensselaer, Indiana, with the following members present: Rein Bontreger, Stephen Jordan, Gerrit H. DeVries, Andrew Andree, Gary Fritts, Paul Norwine and Brett Risner. Also present were Kimberly K. Grow, Jasper County Auditor and Tina Porter, Deputy Auditor. Mr. Bontreger called the meeting to order and those present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Risner.

MINUTES: Mr. DeVries made a motion to approve the December 20, 2016 minutes as presented. Mr. Norwine seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD: Nominations were opened. Mr. Norwine made a motion to nominate Rein Bontreger as President. No other nominations were made. Mr. DeVries made a motion to close nominations and Mr. Fritts seconded. After a unanimous vote, nominations were closed. Also unanimous was the vote to elect Mr. Bontreger as President of the Council.

Mr. Bontreger opened nominations for Vice President. Mr. DeVries made a motion to nominate Andrew Andree. Mr. Jordan made a motion to close nominations. After a unanimous vote, nominations were closed. Also unanimous was the vote to elect Mr. Andree as Vice President of the Council.

RICK CRAWLEY / WABASH VALLEY ALLIANCE: Mr. Crawley was present and thanked the Council for the money that the county gives them to operate the mental health center. He brought the statistics for Jasper County for Wabash's fiscal year, July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. He stated that they keep track of all the services they provide for the residents of Jasper County, which is then compiled in to an annual report. The services amount to just under \$1.474 million in charges. They collected approximately \$904,000 from insurance companies. This left a shortfall of approximately \$570,000. They received \$281,116.00 from Jasper County. They seek out federal and state grants to make up the difference. He stated that their referrals were down, due in large part to receiving less referrals from the schools. They provided approximately \$200,000 less in services this year. They served 507 people. Predominately, most of the services they provide are for children and they've even seen children as young as four or five years old. The 507 patients they treated represent about one and one half percent of the population. He said they would like that number to be higher, preferably three to four percent. He's aware that, in the northern part of the county, a lot of people go to Lake County to seek services and is something that they haven't been able to change to get them to come to Rensselaer. They treat a wide variety of mental health and addiction cases and provide counseling and therapy as well as prescription services. They also get EDO's and referrals from the jail and Community Corrections. Mr. Norwine questioned if the bulk of the money Wabash receives comes from the patient and their insurance company. Mr. Crawley replied that most of the patients are low income so the primary amount of money they receive is from Medicaid, Medicare and the state. With the addition of Hip 2.0, the amount of people having health coverage has improved but is still not where it should be. Approximately half of their clients do not have coverage for various reasons. Mr. DeVries asked what type of treatment they would render for a child as young as four or five. Mr. Crawley replied that it could vary, but they are seeing kids displaying the same types of symptoms as adults. It could be for things such as attention deficit or hyperactivity. They have also seen children that were born addicted or became addicted by the environment they were living in. They treat children that are having behavior problems in school. He believes the drug epidemic has played a large role in this. They get a lot of referrals from Department of Child Services. Mr. Fritts asked if there was any way to determine, on a percentage basis, how many patients are affected by the drug epidemic. Mr. Crawley replied that, generally speaking, sixty to eighty percent of their patients have addiction problems. Mr. Bontreger stated that he's aware Mr. Crawley works closely with Chief Deputy Pat Williamson to make improvements. He said that he talked with Chief Williamson not long ago and was told that, since Franciscan took over, what had been in place and working well has been lost. He was wondering if they have an interface with St. Elizabeth's in Lafayette that could translate up here to make things run more smoothly. Mr. Crawley replied that they probably need to meet with the hospital again. One of the recent situations they had was purely a communication issue. He said that he's talked to River Bend about it, but has not talked to the hospital yet. He said that he's tried to get his co-worker, Denise, to work with the hospital to improve communications.

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RICK CRAWLEY / WABASH VALLEY ALLIANCE CONT'D: Mr. Bontreger asked Mr. Crawley to explain to everyone how River Bend used to be owned by Wabash. Mr. Crawley explained that, back in 2010, River Bend Hospital which was Wabash Valley Hospital at the time, was acquired by North Central. In addition, Wabash Valley did some things to strengthen their outpatient services in order to better serve the community. Their outpatient grew, but in turn made the smoother transition in to River Bend more difficult at times. They have an employee trying to look at the issues they have and they try to analyze cases that don't go as smoothly as they should so it can be handled better next time. He said that Chief Williamson has his phone number and will call if there is a significant problem, to which Mr. Crawley will try to get it resolved as soon as possible. He thinks we need to work closely together as a community and use our resources to help fight the drug epidemic.

RESOLUTION FOR INTER-FUND LOAN: Mr. Bontreger stated that this is an Inter-Fund loan for the Ambulance Service in the amount of \$350,000.00 that will be paid back by the end of the year. Mr. Jordan made a motion to approve the Inter-Fund Loan to the Ambulance Fund in the amount of \$350,000.00. Mr. Fritts seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION / ANIMAL CONTROL: Advertised in the County General Fund, Animal Control Budget, Director was \$698.00. Mr. Bontreger stated that this is essentially an accounting correction. His raise was added to his original base, as opposed to what he had been moved up to part way through the year. Mr. Risner made a motion to approve the Additional Appropriation for Animal Control Director in the amount of \$698.00. Mr. Andree seconded and the motion carried unanimously. **Ordinance No 2017-01A**

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION / DEPUTY ASSESSOR: Advertised in the Reassessment Fund, Deputy Assessor was \$250.00. Mr. Bontreger stated that this is to correct a slight discrepancy that was not covered at budget time. Mr. Norwine made a motion to approve Additional Appropriation for Deputy Assessor in the amount of \$250.00. Mr. DeVries seconded and the motion carried unanimously. **Ordinance No 2017-01B**

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION / RADIO CONTROL OPERATOR: Advertised in the County General Fund, Radio Operator was \$38,574.00. Mr. Bontreger stated that this is not a new position. It had previously been approved to be moved from 911 in to County General, but now has to be processed as an additional. Mr. Fritts made the motion to approve the Additional Appropriation for Radio Control Operator in the amount of \$38, 574.00. Mr. Jordan seconded and the motion carried unanimously. **Ordinance No 2017-01C**

TRANSFER REQUEST / SHERIFF RISNER: Sheriff Risner was present to request a transfer in the amount of \$40,000.00 from maintenance in to the computer account. He stated that they initially received a quote to upgrade the server in December at a cost of over \$100,000.00. Through Mr. King's efforts, they were able to get the quote down to around \$65,000.00. The quote is only valid until February 3, 2017. There is a chance that the price could've increased several thousand dollars after such time due to the fact that the company uses vendors to purchase the items. He said if he transferred the money, he would have enough to purchase the upgrade. He could then come back and ask for an additional to replace the money in the maintenance and computer accounts. He said he missed the cut-off date to have an additional request advertised for this meeting. Upon ordering the equipment, it will take forty-five days until it's ready to be installed. Mr. Bontreger stated that it would be much more costly if the data was compromised as opposed to purchasing the protection. Mr. Norwine said he has a suggestion that may not be do-able, but worth mentioning. He heard discussion at the January 3, 2017 Commissioners meeting that the Sheriff would be replacing two vehicles that have lower miles on them. Sheriff Risner stated that one has 105,000 miles and the other has approximately 60,000 to 70,000. Mr. Norwine asked Sheriff Risner how he'd feel about keeping the lower mileage car for someone who may not drive as much and only purchase one car. Sheriff Risner replied "No. If I start short-changing my operation on cars, then we're just going to pay the penalty in maintenance." He said that they've stayed in the \$35,000 range for computer operation for years, since Mr. King's been here. The original plan was to start replacing equipment in 2018, but seeing the recent cyberattacks in other counties has accelerated the need to get it done. He said that he understands Mr. Norwine's point, but a squad car is \$26,000 or \$27,000.

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TRANSFER REQUEST / SHERIFF RISNER CONT'D: He also said they've saved the county money with the asset forfeiture fund. He told Mr. Norwine that he appreciates his thoughts, but he wants to get right of those cars. He thinks they will be great for normal transportation and will be a benefit to the Courthouse and County Highway for administrative use, but if they are kept in a patrol mode, they will start to be more of a problem for them since they've already started having some issues. Mr. Bontreger asked how old the cars are and Sheriff Risner replied that they are both 2013. Mr. Jordan stated that, after seeing reports from a couple other counties, the \$65,000.00 just for the cyber protection plus other equipment we are upgrading is minimal compared to what other counties are spending just to cover their cyber exposure. He believes it will be money well spent. Sheriff Risner stated that, if he didn't think this was warranted or needed, he can assure the Council that he would not be asking for it. Mr. Bontreger stated that spending money on prevention is far better than spending it after a disaster. Sheriff Risner stated that most servers are only built to last about five years and we have been using the current server for over eight years. We have saved money by using it for an additional three years as opposed to replacing it at five years. The new equipment will be on a five year rotation that will have trade-in value when replaced. Mr. Bontreger asked if the new equipment will replace the back-up drive. Sheriff Risner replied that the data is downloaded and removed from site almost daily.

Mr. Bontreger asked for an update on the jail census. Sheriff Risner stated that, as of that morning, they have eighty-one inmates. The population is staying around between seventy and eighty. They have several inmates that are serving sentences under the new sentencing laws that are three-hundred and sixty five days or less. Because of that, he said that they are billing Department of Corrections for the people they are keeping under state statute. They do not keep anyone that they don't have to in order to keep the population down. They booked in one-thousand one-hundred and three people last year, which was an increase over the year 2105. He said as soon as he gets all the jail data together, the Council and Commissioners will all receive copies of the book which will have a break-down of all the charges. He stated that they do see problems that arise when they keep someone under a sentence, such as those with on-going medical issues. They are reimbursed \$35.00 per day and also some medical costs, but it does not cover transport costs for doctor visits and extra manpower. There is also more wear and tear on the facility when the population is higher. Statute also requires that they keep sentenced inmates away from non-sentenced inmates. He said the facility doesn't have that kind of space when they have eighty-one people.

Mr. Andree made a motion to approve the transfer request in the amount of \$40,000.00 out of Cedit Maintenance in to CEDIT Computer Supplies. Mr. Risner seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Sheriff Risner stated that he will be back in February for the additional appropriation request.

REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION: Mr. Bontreger stated that he's talked with an interested person, but nothing has been confirmed. He said they may need to come back to it next month. Mr. DeVries asked how often they meet. Mr. Bontreger replied that Mr. Culp told him they only meet when needed. When asked by Mr. Bontreger if he had any information on this board, Mr. Kelly stated that the Redevelopment Commission has to do with TIF districts. It is his understanding that the only TIF district Jasper County has is located by Interstate 65 in Rensselaer. Unless there is a request to expand a TIF, a request to spend some of the money that should be flowing in to the TIF, or a request to create a TIF in another location, the Commission would not meet. Mr. DeVries asked if it could be a Council member. Mr. Bontreger asked Attorney Monfort if he could look up the qualifications and stipulations of this position and either let the Council or Auditor Grow know. He replied that he can. Mr. Bontreger stated that this will be taken care of at the next meeting.

ALCOHOL BEVERAGE COMMISSION: Mr. Bontreger asked if anyone has any suggestions for this board. Mr. Risner asked Auditor Grow if she received his email. She replied that she forwarded it to Attorney Monfort. Attorney Monfort stated that he has not had time to look at it. Mr. Bontreger stated that this will be tabled until next month.

KENDELL CULP: Mr. Culp was present and stated that he has two topics, both having to do with roads. He said that the Frost Law goes in to effect on Wednesday, January 18 at 6:00 A.M. until further notice. The Sheriff has been made aware.

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KENDELL CULP CONT'D: There is a phone number on each frost law sign that will give a recorded message. There are a few roads that are exempted, the first one being County Road 1400 North leading in to NIPSCO. This was a joint venture where the paving cost was split between the County and NIPSCO. The second exempted road is County Road 575 West leading back to Kersey. The County has reached an agreement with Rodney Urbano and Jeff DeYoung. This road will be improved next year, with each party, along with the County, contributing towards the cost. Town and Country will be doing the work. He said he believes Mr. Maxwell has a couple exempted roads in Remington as well.

Next, he said, he hopes this is the session in the General Assembly for transportation, road and bridge funding. He will be going to Indianapolis on January 25<sup>th</sup> on behalf of Farm Bureau. The Ways and Means Committee will be taking testimony on January 25<sup>th</sup>. The speakers have plans and seem to be in agreement that it's going to take an increase in taxes and user fees to bring us up to speed for revenue for long-term sustainable road funding. Mr. Culp will also be testifying for that. He said, as of right now, everything's on the table and we are supporting whatever they come up with. We want to make sure they have plenty of options. There's a chance they could require local matches, at which time it would be worked out with the Council. Mr. Bontreger asked how plans are looking for the spring for the road funding money we were able to get. Mr. Culp replied that it will be very helpful and is one that required a fifty-fifty match. He talked to Indiana Department of Transportation today. We have not yet received our match money. He had a meeting in Indianapolis last week and only two out of the twelve or fifteen counties had received their money. He thought it was district specific and was told that Jasper County's request was approved January 16, 2017. He's guessing the county will receive the \$1,000,000.00 in approximately one week. He said that some of the projects were done in the fall, but there will be a lot of work done this spring from 2016, while at the same time applying for a 2017 grant. He said there has been discussion about moving some money right in to the Community Crossings Grant Fund, such as a \$15.00 vehicle registration fee, a \$100 per electric car fee and a gas tax, which would all be local funds. There are also funds that would go directly to the state. He said there are a lot of options on the table. He told the Council he appreciates their support last year with the road funding.

KEVIN KELLY / JCEDO: Mr. Kelly was present and stated that, currently, they are working on updating the guide for investment, the website and other guides. This normally happens in January and February each year, in addition to what they regularly do. The updated guide to Jasper County is complete and should be sent out by email soon.

CITIZEN ROBERT SCHENK: Mr. Schenk was present and stated that he was not able to find the agenda online. Mrs Porter stated that it was put online today due to awaiting confirmation from Mr. Crawley. Mr. Bontreger thanked Mr. Schenk and told him we will make sure to stay on top of it. He also thanked him for his coverage of everything. He said he sees that he's on track to do the same again this year.

There being no further business, Mr. Jordan made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Risner seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

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Rein O. Bontreger, President

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Kimberly K. Grow, Auditor of Jasper County

